The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

VOL. 4, NO. 48 WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1915. WHOLE NO. 204

ASKS U. S. TO PAY VERDICT

Washington, Feb. 27.—Judge Alton D. Parker, of New York; President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the A. F. of L., and officers of the United Hatters union, appeared before the House committee on appropriations to urge favorable action on a request of Danbury hatters that Congress make an appropriation of $290,000 to enable the defendants in the hatters' case to pay the fine and costs for which they were held liable under the recent decision of the United States Supreme court.

Judge Parker declared that Congress, in enacting the Sherman anti-trust act, did not intend that it should apply to labor unions. He contended that the intent of Congress in 1890, when the original law was passed, was accurately reflected in 1914, when Congress, in enacting the Clayton law, expressly exempted labor unions from prosecutions under the anti-trust acts.

President Gompers addressed the committee and also called attention to the intent of the anti-trust law as finally clearly declared in the Clayton law.

In their petition to Congress for relief, the hatters call attention to the declaration by Congress, in passing the Clayton law, that labor organizations are not included in the list of trusts, and that the Clayton law inferentially vindicates the belief of the petitioners and of the members of the labor organizations generally that they were intended to be and are exempt from anti-trust legislation.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Both the Senate and House have agreed to a section of the sundry civil appropriation bill which provides that no part of the money assigned for the prosecution of trusts shall be spent "in the prosecution of any organization or individual for entering into any combination or agreement having in view the increasing of wages, shortening of hours, or bettering the conditions of labor, or for any act done in furtherance thereof, not in itself unlawful."

When this amendment was first proposed, before the Clayton law was passed, it aroused bitter opposition on the part of those who insisted that labor organizations were "trusts."

The amendment this year, however, has created no comment, and its acceptance is general, and in line with the declaration in the Clayton law that: "The labor power of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

DISCUSSES RESTRICTION.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 27.—In a leading editorial on the question of restricting immigration in this country, Editor Fields, of the Oklahoma City Evening Times says, in part

"It is plainly time to put aside sentimentalism and study this question in a cold-blooded, dispassionate way. Stand at the gateway of one of the great factories of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, or Massachusetts, when the evening whistle blows; watch five and six thousand men check out by number and crowd through the gate; then go and inspect the hovels and rookeries in which they swarm to exist between dusk and dawn; note the sanitary conditions, food, bedding, and other requirements—then ask yourself seriously and candidly whether you think an American laboring man, well born, decently reared and fairly well schooled, should or could bring himself to accept wages that will lower his standard to such a level? Frankly, now, do you blame the average young American, who is capable of taking a thought ahead, if he hesitates about assuming the duties and responsibilities of a husband and a father when he knows that in its last analysis the wage scale is limited and fixed by a practically unlimited supply of labor imported from lands where the lowest standards of living prevail?"

NON-UNION MINE CLOSED.

Fort Smith, Ark., Feb. 27.—It is announced that the receiver of the Bache-Denman coal syndicate has ordered that operations at these properties cease. A strike of union miners against the Bache-Denman concern has been on for several months, because of an attempt to enforce non-union conditions, which the management called "the open shop." There was some discussion at one time among some of the strikers on the question of buying the mines.

WOULD PROTECT EMPLOYES.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 27.—A bill has been introduced in the state legislature which provides that no contract for public work which is of such character that employes engaged on such work are required to be insured under the workingmen's compensation law, shall hereafter be executed until the successful bidder procures a policy in compliance with the provisions of such law.

NEW HOME FOR UNIONISTS.

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—Before the end of next month the trade union movement of this city will be housed in its new home in the Labor temple, a three-story-and-basement structure, which will cost, when completed, $150,000.

LIVING CONDITIONS "VILE"

Roosevelt, N. J., Feb. 27.—"No man could support a wife and family on the wages they had been getting," said Dr. Max Jacoby before the state legislative committee, which is investigating living conditions among employes of the American Agricultural Chemical company, who struck to have a wage cut of 40 cents a day restored, and who were successful after they organized a union affiliated to the American Federation of Labor.

The witness said conditions were "indescribably bad;" that disease was rampant, and that malaria and tuberculosis were so common that these cases did not even excite pity. The chemical fumes in which the men worked weakened the throat, lungs and intestines, so that they became susceptible to disease.

"Men and women die from tuberculosis right along, after exposing others to it," said Dr. Jacoby.

Little attention, the witness continued, was paid to sick children, and physicians were seldom summoned, except when a child was dying, and then "more to insure a proper death certificate than with any hope of saving the life of a child."

Children were born, Dr. Jacoby asserted, amid conditions indescribable for their filth and sordidness. Large families lived in three or four small rooms, with sometimes three or four beds in each room, with no ventilation nor privacy.

The physician declared that "almost every family had to keep boarders in order to exist," and that "the general conditions led to much immorality."

PRINTERS' STAND INDORSED

New Orleans, Feb. 27.—Printers on strike against three daily papers in this city are standing firm, despite the refusal of publishers to accept the offer of the federal department of labor to arbitrate differences, which arose over the attempt of the printers to enforce a five-day law, without cost to the publishers, to relieve their out-of-work members.

The union has started a daily paper, which is proving a success. Officers of the International Typographical union have been asking prominent citizens throughout the country to assist them in creating a sentiment for arbitration, and in response to this request Congressman Reilly of Connecticut wrote Robert Ewing, publisher of the Daily States, to this effect. The eastern lawmaker said: "From what little I know of the case, it would appear to me the proper thing to do."

The publisher replied: "As you admit you know little about the case of the publishers and the printers of New Orleans, it is rather surprising to me that you should pass on the matter and proffer your advice and suggestions about a controversy that we consider vital to the very existence of the newspapers of this city. In order that you may better inform yourself than you have been able to do * * * I am inclosing you statement of both the printers and the publishers on the matter, published in the New Orleans press."

In answer to the above, Congressman Reilly said:

"After a careful reading of both statements, I am more convinced than ever that the suggestion in my first letter recommending arbitration is well advised. I am frank to say that I know considerable more now of the situation, thanks to your information, than I did when I wrote you first. The particular thing that I understand better is that, without expense to the newspaper publishers of New Orleans, the Typographical union desired to get employment two days a week for the unemployed members of their craft.

"As a newspaper man of thirty years' experience, as secretary for over twenty-five years of a newspaper publishing company employing Typographical union printers and operators, I am surprised at the stand taken in this matter by the New Orleans publishers. In these times of depression it would appear to me that any effort, especially one as fair as the one under consideration, to give work to unemployed, should receive the heartiest support instead of opposition of newspaper owners.

"The other minor differences between you and your printers, in my opinion, amount to very little. The supreme issue in this case being the desire of the union to help their unemployed brothers, I am sure that public opinion will be greatly in favor of the union in this matter."

COMPENSATION BILL URGED.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 27.—"Why did you fail to bring those 5,000 or more crippled wage workers of your district to this city to object to this bill; those thousands, most of whom have never received a cent of compensation for their injuries?" asked Secretary-Treasurer Smith, of the Missouri Federation of Labor, of Joplin mine owners who were opposing a compensation bill at an open hearing in the state capitol.

The unionist showed the legislators that every reform has been met by the same opposition. He said:

"When twenty-five or more years ago we demanded the eight-hour workday we were met with the same argument which you present today. Then, as now, you claimed that it could not be done. Then, as now, you claimed that business would be ruined if certain improvements for the working people would be secured. Then, as now, you were opposed to any and all kinds of reform and improvements of labor's condition. Then we had to fight for the eight-hour day, as we are compelled to fight for the compensation act to-day. You are opposed to a good compensation act and you are opposed to a commission to enforce the act."

PUBLIC PAYS TRANSPORTATION.

Washington, Feb. 27.—At least forty-three states authorize the transportation of pupils to public schools at the expense of school districts, according to a bulletin issued by the United States bureau of education. In certain states transportation at public expense is permissible only, in others obligatory. Ohio, for example, requires transportation for children two miles or more from the school, while other states require transportation when the distance is one and one-half miles or more.

In the several states the school authorities may pay parents or guardians a fixed amount per day for transportation, while Maine, Vermont, Minnesota, South Dakota and Oregon permit payment for room and board for pupils in homes convenient to the schools where the cost of so doing does not exceed the cost of transportation.

OHIO UNIONISTS ACTIVE.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 27.—The State Federation of Labor is actively urging its legislative program before the state legislature. The following bills are being given especial attention:

To limit the issuing of injunctions in certain cases; limiting the hours of employment for females; providing lights on D-rails and switches; pertaining to safety devices on street and electric cars; providing for low water claim on all steam boilers; providing for prison labor upon public highways; payment of wages in cash; examining and licensing of steam engineers; limiting length of freight trains and installing automatic fire doors in locomotives.

AGREE ON SEAMEN'S BILL.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The conference committee, consisting of five Senators and five members of the House, have agreed upon a seamen's bill. It was reported to the House yesterday and may be taken up for action today (Thursday).

The bill agreed upon is a good one, in so far as it deals with the seamen. In the matter of furnishing reasonable safety at sea, it falls short of the La Follette bill, but it is an improvement upon existing conditions.

STATIONARY FIREMEN AIDED.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The United States bureau of mines has issued valuable information to the thousands of stationary firemen throughout the country telling them the best methods of firing boilers in order to have the least smoke and to produce the most heat. The report seeks to meet the needs of the men, many without a technical education, who are employed in small plants where the firing is done by hand.

ATTEMPT TO ADJUST STRIKE.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 27.—Officials connected with the state labor commissioner's office are attempting to adjust the strike of oil tank builders. Nearly 2,000 men are involved. State Labor Commissioner Ashton reports that the conditions which caused the strike are "very bad."

REMEDY WILL BE TO STRIKE

San Juan, Porto Rico, Feb. 27.—"The remedy will be to strike, and again strike!" declares Justicia, official newspaper of the union federation in this city, while discussing labor conditions in Porto Rico.

The paper continues:

"The houses of the majority o rural workers are merely a framework of poles, covered with the bar of palm trees and with dried leaves and thatched with palm leaves or a ough grass which is found all over t island. These houses are sometimes built on the ground, but more frequently they have a board floor made of palm. This floor is raised fro the ground so as to permit the rain water to flow under the house, and oft the house is built on a slight inclin The house invariably is one stor in height, and usually consists c one 20 feet square. This room, especially if it is large, is sometimes divid by a partitions into two freely comunicating rooms. Even where tire is a partition, there is, as a rule, o division of the sexes, since in suc cases all the family live, and often wk, in one of these rooms during tl day and sleep in the other at nigh The influence of these conditions up the sexual impulses of adolescent cldren is not favorable."

After reviewing the deplorab conditions under which island wrkers exist, the article closes as follow

"If, however, the island be ilized merely or primarily as a mns of providing opportunities for invment and commercial exploitation by mericans, Spaniards, Porto Rica and other citizens, if the policy oducating the people be held up on count of its expense and alleged ielessness; if the standard of living the people be not raised, the condon of Porto Rican laboring class af one hundred or two hundred years ill be no better than it was in the ye 1898, when the sovereignty of Spa gave way to the dominion of theinited States of America.

"Then, the remedy will be strike and again strike!"

URGE CHILD LABOR BL.

Newark, N. J., Feb. 27.—At aeeting of social workers in this city, A Wm. S. Corwin urged those presen give personal concern to the passay the national Congress of the Pals-Owen bill intended to prevent intertatraffic in the products of child al The speaker said

"The present crisis in Europeclines us to minimize our own probs, but the war itself is preparing fo new problems in view of which thealmer-Owen bill is of especial importa. With the close of the war Europe wbok to America as the hope and havof the poor. The flood of immigration, temporarily checked, will be redou, and we must be ready for the peoplo are coming to us. Unless the PalOwen bill is passed we shall not be red They will come poor in money, brokenspirit, and ready to let their children k for a pittance under the conditions t find. They will lower our standards education and living if we allow then, and after they come the obstacles way of progressive legislation will reater than ever."

"PERSONAL SAFETY" RGED.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 27.—urge individual workmen to realiheir personal responsibility, is one he methods recommended to reducecidents by officials of the state depart of labor and industry, in a report ssued. It is shown that accidents he number of 28,126 occurred in tharious industrial plants of the staturing the year. The loss in wages fithese accidents amounted to $1,048,1 According to the report the total nr of days lost by workmen on accounaccidents was 436,824. This gives anrage loss to each workman of twelvys.

"When we consider the faching injury to the social well-bein the people of the Commonwealth," inues the report, "the need of remerows imperative. It has been found depending upon these injured won are 64,016 other persons. This n a total of more than 100,000 personected by these accidents."

REFUSE A RE-HEAG.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 27e Kentucky court of appeals hased to grant a rehearing on thekmen's compensation act, which ecently decided, in a divided opinic be unconstitutional. The court refused to modify its decision he law could be made effective, ng an amendment by the legisl which convenes the first of nexr.

The majority opinion sed a belief that the legislature draw up a constitutional law, bjection was raised to the present ecause of the limit of amount d for various damages, the c being made that the placing of nit is against the state constitutio

Compensation advocates now conducting an educational paign preparatory to the convenf the next legislature.

INSIST ON UNION L

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—Trd of supervisors of this city hclined to consider bids for printing non-union firms, and has appro proposed charter amendment mcompulsory the use of the unil on all city printing. This amen will be voted on at the special el next month, and is intended to egal a former resolution of cicials which has been declared v the Supreme court on the groust a union label resolution is flict with the competitive biddin of the city charter.

CARPENTERS ME

Stamford, Conn., Feb. 27.—Fr delegates from New York, New and Massachusetts attended the convention of carpenters and jo eld in this city. A resolution wted which proposes an amendme the workmen's compensation act by the length of time between ity and beginning of compensatio be shortened from 17 days to 7 nd also that the rate to be pa injured worker during his conf be increased.

WILL EMPLOY UNION L

Springfield, Mo., Feb. 27.—A equest of organized labor, the council has passed a resolutio ding that a clause be placed in tracts let by the city requirin ployment of union labor.

ORGANIZE BARBER

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 27.— bers of this city have orga their first contract is being signed by employers.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION COUNCIL WASHINGTON

"DIVIDE AND CONQUER."

Washington, Feb. 27.—Anti-union forces that have devoted every energy in denying workers the right to exercise their normal activities, and who have been defeated in their efforts by the American Federation of Labor's insistence that the Clayton bill be passed, have changed front and are now posing as "friends" of the Danbury hatters, while maintaining, at the same time, their well-known hostility toward the A. F. of L.

In an unsigned circular, entitled "What Does Unionism Mean?" these anti-unionists are mailing throughout the country a document consisting of "inspired" articles from a New York and a Boston paper, written by their Washington correspondents, in which the A. F. of L. is put in the position of attempting to delude the hatters in their numerous court suits.

The purpose of these circulars is apparent and is in line with the theory so long practiced by opponents of the trade union movement, "Divide and Conquer."

HIGH FINANCE BY RAILROADS

Chicago, Feb. 27.—A feature of the arbitration hearings, in which western railroad employes are asking higher wages, was the discovery by Grand Chief Stone, of the engineers' brotherhood, of an overcharge of $40,000,000 in one of the financial exhibits offered by the companies' expert statistician.

This $40,000,000, it seems, constituted an expenditure for extensions and improvements on the Puget Sound division of the Milwaukee lines, prior to its purchase by the parent company, which already had been made a charge on the Puget Sound company's books. According to Mr. Stone the item was duplicated in the Milwaukee road's estimates and thus something of $40,000,000 more than should be shown was included in the total. The companies' expert could not explain this.

There also was a disclosure regarding the practices of various western roads of frequently paying dividends out of surplus instead of from income. Grand Chief Stone quoted figures showing total dividends out of income, for the year ended June 30, 1914, of $146,155,706. He added that the Illinois Central and St Paul lines were shown to have paid their dividends from surplus and he added that the following companies had also paid dividends in that year from surplus:

The Rock Island, $1,871,762; Missouri, Kansas and Texas, $261,429; "Soo" road, $2,646,714; St. Louis and Southwestern, $3,084,375, and the Union Pacific, $74,020,372. The grand total of dividends from surplus to shareholders on these roads in 1914 was $79,835,669.

"The point is simply this," said the brotherhood official. "If dividends to stockholders can be paid and are paid from surplus in times of depression, why should not wage increases for employes be made in the same way?"

MINES KILL 2,451 IN YEAR.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Coal mining in 1914 cost the lives of 3.3 men in every 1,000 employed, while in the year 1913 the death rate was 3.73. This reduction means a saving of more than 300 lives, reports the United States bureau of mines. The number of miners killed for every 1,000,000 tons of coal mined in 1914 was 4.81. In the year 1913 there were 4.89 miners killed for every 1,000,000 tons mined."

"Shocking as is the violent death of 2,451 men in a year's time in a peaceful industry," said Van H. Manning, acting director of the bureau, "the men of the bureau who are engaged in the campaign to reduce this casualty list find, in comparison with other years, some indications that the improvement noted in the saving of life will be further accentuated as the years pass."

FAVORS STATE COMPENSATION.

Astoria, Oreg., Feb. 27.—In an editorial on the subject of state compensation, the Morning Astorian says:

"Private interests should never be permitted to come between the employer and the injured employe, conducting a business that depends on accident and injury of human beings for its profit. Such an enterprise is no more legitimate than it would be considered a legitimate business for a private corporation to engage in policing our cities and making prosecutions for law violations. The administration of a compensation law by which the injuries of employes of our state are cared for is as much a function of government as is the maintenance of public schools, the policing of our cities and the administration of justice."

"SIXTY-HOUR" LAW A FARCE.

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 27.—The sixty-hour law of this state is a farce, reports Commissioner Watson of the department of agriculture, commerce and industries to the state legislature. The law, while providing for only sixty hours' labor in any one week, permits of the making up of lost time, and this has been so construed that enforcement of the law is absolutely impossible. The commissioner reports that state officials "have been almost overwhelmed with complaints from opertives in textile plants." He recommends that this proviso be repealed and such regulations substituted as can be enforced.

SUPPORTNG WOMEN STRIKERS.

Holyoke, Mass., Feb. 27.—Striking women workers employed in the rag room of the Valley Paper company are being supported by the local trade union movement and its sympathizers. The women struck when the company refused to raise their wages from $6.60 to $7.50 a week. The state board of arbitration investigated the case and reported in favor of the demand.

PAPERMAKERS ARE ACTIVE.

Fitchburg, Mass., Feb. 27.—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Papermakers are assisting their local in this city in an organizing campaign. At a mass meeting International President Carey protested against a so-called "dividend system" and wage scale in one of the mills, which, he contended, is from 25 cents to $1.25 per day under the prevailing rates.

QUERY FOR CONSERVATIVES

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—In discussing the recent Roosevelt, N. J., strike, which was won by the workers, who affiliated to the A. F. of L., The Bulletin, of this city, in a leading editorial, says:

"Labor disputes always wring from the conservative heart much sympathy for the 'independent workingman,' who stands upon his inalienable right to work for as low a wage as he pleases, for hours as long as he pleases, and under conditions as bad as he can find them. The whole American labor movement has been set forth more than once as a struggle for freedom, in which labor organizations play the part of tyrants and corporate employers the part of Galahads galloping to the rescue of the independent worker.

"It would be interesting to know how the followers of this industrial gospel are regarding the entire typical situation at Cartaret, Roosevelt borough, New Jersey, where nineteen unarmed strikers were shot by gunmen on January 19. They would not approve the shooting, probably, but would they approve of the conditions of which the shooting was but a development?

"The workingmen who performed the hardest and most distasteful kind of toil in the Cartaret fertilizer factories used to be paid $2 a day. A man cannot support a family on the American standard upon such a wage, but these laborers got along as well as they could. Then the companies started to 'retrench,' and began cutting wages to $1.60 a day.

"Then appeared the 'independent workingman,' the champion of industrial liberty. He came, probably, from New York City and other centers where unemployed and inexperienced labor was congregated. He was probably a foreigner. Probably, also, the employment agency which sent him to Cartaret lied to him about the situation there. With him, no doubt, were sent disguised agents of private detective bureaus. When he reached the mill he was put to work at $1.60 a day. If the company can bring in a sufficient number of laborers who will work for $1.60 a day the workingmen who held out for $2 a day will beg to be taken back, or drift to new fields of employment, where they may find conditions quite as bad, or become dependent upon public or private charity.

"This would be a great victory for the 'independent workingman.' It would be a replica of scores of similar victories by which the wage standard in a number of occupations has been forced downward. Do intelligent conservatives really rejoice when such a thing happens? If they do they are inconsistent, for the straight path to a great and indiscriminate industrial upheaval is marked by starvation wages and oppressed laborers, while the way of peace and calm development is through better wages, better working conditions, and an increasing degree of democracy."

LETTER PRODUCED DIVIDENDS.

Wheeling, W. Va., Feb. 27.—Before the Congressional subcommitte investigating charges against Federal Judge Dayton, S. A. Moore, of Philippi, said he had been connected with a bank of which Judge Dayton was a director and had held stock in corporations with Judge Dayton. He said the Federal Carbon company was organized as a selling agent for the Acme Carbon company, on the advice of Judge Dayton that it would not be in violation of anti-trust laws. For several years, Moore testified, the Federal company paid dividends of 20 to 25 per cent annually. Later, he said, the dividends fell off.

On one occasion, Moore declared, he, Judge Dayton and Charles W. Teter, an attorney of Philippi, met in Moore's office, where a letter was dictated to a party whom Moore could not recall, and which contained a threat that if dividends were not more liberal the matter would be taken to a federal court.

After that, Moore said, the dividends increased to 4 or 5 per cent a month.

AGAINST LONG HOURS.

Washington, Feb. 27.—In discussing some of the vital problems before the American people today, United States Senator Cummins said: "Excessive hours of labor must cease if we would maintain our standard of citizenship, and the workingman must know that the law is his friend and protector, not his enemy and despoiler. Child labor must be abolished, for if we cannot give our young people a chance to become strong physically, mentally and morally, the end of the republic is not far away."

Senator Cummins is the author of this declaration in the Clayton law: "The labor power of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

"OUR PENAL BARBARISM."

St. Louis, Mo., Feb. 27.—Under the above caption, Reedy's Mirror, published in this city, says:

"A plot has been hatched at Jefferson City to stretch out the prison labor contract system in the state penitentiary for six years. This will be a soft snap for the contractors. But the state has no right to exploit the labor of its prisoners in that way. The prisoners should be employed at state work and they should be paid for it or their dependents at home should be paid for it. The present system is simply barbarism."

MAKING PROGRESS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 27.—It is reported that the joint commission of employers and employes are making progress in their effort to reach an agreement on proposed amendments to the state compensation law.

The workers' representatives on this commission are: President Walker, of the State Federation of Labor; Duncan McDonald, secretary Illinois United Mine Workers; President Fitzpatrick, of the Chicago Federation of Labor; President O'Donnell, of the Chicago Building Trades Council, and Robert Fitchie, secretary of the Teamsters' Joint Council.

OPPOSE QUALIFICATION.

Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 27.—Trade unionists in the Ontario province are asking that the property qualification for holding any municipal office be abolished. The injustice of this law is apparent when it is recalled that no property qualification is necessary for a candidate for the provincial legislature or the federal parliament.

NINE-HOUR DAY FOR WOMEN.

Indianapolis, Feb. 27.—Indiana trade unionists are urging a nine-hour work day for women workers in this state. Two years ago a bill of this character was passed by the house of representatives, but the senate refused to accept it, and, instead, passed a bill to create "a commission to investigate and report."

APPOINT SCALE COMMITTEE.

Toronto, Ontario, Feb. 27.—The Typographical union has appointed a committee to negotiate with their employers the question of a new wage scale.

'DEAD LEVEL' CRY IS RAISED

Washington, Feb. 27.—By a vote of 27 to 33 the United States Senate, last Tuesday, refused to concur with the House that no money in the army appropriation bill should be used for any "stop-watch" or so-called "Taylor system" in government plants. The time-worn "dead level" charge against trade unionists was used most effectively by friends of the "Taylor system." Senator Hughes lead the fight against these systems and urged that the position of the House be sustained. The New Jersey senator said: "The theory that the man who does the most work gets the most money under the piece work system sounds beautiful, but my experience has been that it does not work out well. The net result of it is that, as under the 'Taylor system,' the day's work is finally based upon the ability of the high-class man."

Senator Martine of New Jersey joined with his colleague in opposing the "Taylor system." He said: "I feel that the 'Taylor system,' so-called, would tend to make a mere machine of man. Do not let it, I say, ever be said that the Senate of the United States, or the Congress of the United States, has adopted a system whereby an employer or a foreman or a boss may stand over workmen holding a stop watch to see the amount of time that shall be expended in order that each one of these workmen may make a standard for wages and higher efficiency."

Senator Root of New York led the fight for the stop watch. He said he sympathized "from the bottom of my heart," with the organized workers who are striving to better conditions, but—he raised strong objection to labor unions in what he termed their practice of creating a "dead level before all the young men of America who are at work with their hands, and forbid them to rise above it."

The New York senator announced his opposition to the tendency of labor unions "to prohibit any man from rising in his effort and his efficiency above the standard of the lowest; the effort to level down to the lowest grade."

The speech had a familiar sound to trade unionists and other citizens who understand even the first principles of organized labor. It also showed the necessity for continued agitation and education on the part of unionists to create such an understanding of their movement in this country that a legislator will no longer dare express such incorrect statements.

WOULD NULLIFY LABOR LAW.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 27.—Efforts are being made to nullify the anti-injunction law, passed last year by the legislature, and a bill to this effect has been introduced in the state law-making body. This bill is serving as a model for federations of labor in other states, which are urging its adoption by their respective legislatures. The law provides that no judge can issue an injunction in industrial disputes except where irreparable injury is threatened, and then only in cases where there is no adequate remedy at law.

The law also contains this clear-cut declaration: "In construing this act, the right to enter into the relation of employer and employe, and to assume and create a new relation for employer and employe, and to perform and carry on business in such relation with any person in any place, or to do work and labor as an employe, shall be held and construed to be a personal and not a property right."

UNIONISTS FIGHT REACTION.

Washington, Feb. 27.—Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, has received the following information from President Marsh, of the Washington State Federation of Labor:

"We are having the legislative fight of our lives this winter to retain upon the statute books legislation achieved during the past years. Probably not in twenty years has such a reactionary body sat in our state capitol. Bills are introduced to repeal our eight-hour law on public works, eight-hour law for women, full crew bill and mothers' pension law. We are holding public hearings on all these bills and arousing public sentiment throughout the state. You may rest assured that trade unionists in this state will fight as best they know to hold that which they have gained through many years of struggle."

PASS COMPENSATION BILL.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 27.—By a vote of 79 to 15 the house of representatives has passed a compensation bill. The act now goes to the senate, where, it is predicted, the manufacturers' associations, coal operators and railroads will make their last stand in an effort to kill the measure, which is said to be modeled after the New York law, and provides for compulsory compensation by employers to injured workmen for all injuries which do not result in death. The law could not be made to regulate compensation in case of fatal injuries because of the presence of a provision in the state constitution which provides that the right of court action to recover damages in case of death shall never be denied to the next of kin of the deceased.

UNIONIST TALKS TO FARMERS.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 27.—President Walker, of the State Federation of Labor, addressed the state convention of the Illinois Farmers and Grain Dealers' association on the question of affiliating with the trade union movement. The unionist called attention to methods employed by interests opposed to this plan and which consists of poisoning the minds of farm workers and those on the industrial field. President Walker also discussed the co-operative movement as a means of bringing the producers and consumers together, thus eliminating the unnecessary middlemen that now bring about unjust prices, too high for the consumer and too low for the producer.

AMEND COMPENSATION LAW.

Salem, Oreg., Feb. 27.—Casualty insurance companies lost the first round of their fight against amendments to the workmen's compensation law when the house of representatives, by a vote of 55 to 2, passed the measure. The bill amends the present compensation act and it is declared will remedy the defects which have been found in the law since it became operative last June.

DOUBLE PAY FOR NIGHT WORK.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 27.—Double pay for carpenters employed on night work at the exposition grounds will be insisted upon by the Bay Counties District Council of Carpenters. It is said that this has always been the rule of the carpenters' unions and that no exception will be made to this rule for work on the exposition.

PEONAGE IN TEXTILE MILL

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 17.—The strike against the Fulton Bag and Cotton Mill of this city is being vigorously contested by the 1,400 textile workers, who struck May 20 last.

The two principle issues involved is the right to join a trade union and to wipe out the pernicious contract system which every employe is forced to accede to as a condition of employment. This contract legalizes peonage is the conclusion of every unbiased person acquainted with its workings. It permits the company to always hold back one week's wages. If the employe leaves his or her employment for any cause, without giving one full week's notice, the week's wages is forfeited to the company, while on the other hand the company retains the right to discharge an employe at any time without giving cause for discharge. The charge has not been denied that thousands upon thousands of dollars have been filched from employes through this one-sided contract.

When the workers struck, the company began evicting them from the mill shacks in which they live. The United Textile Workers union immediately purchased a number of army tents and established a tent colony not a great distance from the mill. A strong picket line has been continuously maintained. On several occasions the strikers have been driven from the public streets surrounding the mill by mounted police, but they have insisted on their right to peacefully picket on the public thoroughfares.

The strike has been brought to the attention of Congress through a resolution introduced by Congressman Greene, who asks that the Atlanta textile mills be investigated. Two mediators, representing the Federal department of labor, have been working for the past several months in an effort to adjust differences, but as yet have not been successful, the company rejecting every proposal to either mediate or arbitrate. The strikers are determined to fight rather than submit to conditions under which they were compelled to work.

At the Philadelphia convention of the A. F. of L. this strike was one of three for which a special appeal was ordered issued to the various affiliates. Valuable moral and financial support has followed and the strike has aroused interest not only in the southern states, but all over the country.

PROTEST WAGE RULE OF JUDGE.

Sydney, New South Wales, Feb. 27.—In his annual address before the conference of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' union, held in this city, President Rosser called attention to Judge Heydon's unfair judgment recently in which he notified workers that they must not look for wage increases in these troublesome times.

"Despite this," continued the unionist, "we can't help noticing that the employers, both the merchants and the middlemen, who deal in the necessary commodities, have raised the prices with the consequent effect of decreasing the wages of the workers by at least 25 per cent during the last five months."

The decision complained of was made by Judge Heydon, of the court of industrial arbitration, who notified wages board, several weeks ago, that because of the European war conditions were such that increases were out of the question. The decision, it is declared in some quarters, has practically suspended the sittings of these boards, which are created by law to adjust wages and other questions that arise in the various industries.

OBSERVING "MOTHERS' DAY."

Washington, Feb. 27.—The second Sunday in May will be observed as "Mother's day." On recommendation of the executive council, the 1912 convention of the American Federation of Labor authorized its officers to assist in securing a general observance of this day. Last year the convention recommended to the several state federations of labor that they urge upon their respective legislatures the enactment or adoption of resolutions or laws similar to the one passed by Congress and approved by the President May 8, 1914, which provides for the display of the United States flag on all government buildings and the issuance of a proclamation to the people to display the flag at their homes on the second Sunday in May "as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

THIS LAW STANDS TEST.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 27.—For the fourteenth time the Magill school law has been upheld by the courts of this state—twelve times by circuit courts and twice by the state supreme court. This law provides that pupils ready for high school, living in districts where no high schools are supported, may go to another district and have their tuition paid by the school district in which they reside.

AGAINST LICENSE FEE.

San Francisco, Feb. 27.—The Labor Council of this city has endorsed the request of the Chauffeurs' union for assistance in securing legislation to eliminate the state license fee for chauffeurs.

CLAY WORKERS WIN STRIKE

Toronto, Ohio, Feb. 27.—The new union of clayworkers, affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, has won its strike, started last January, for a restoration of former wage rates. Representatives of the American Federation of Labor and the State Industrial Commission of Ohio assisted in the settlement, which provides that for a period of twelve months from February 19 former wage rates will be paid. The six companies parties to the contract also agree there will be no discrimination, and in the event of grievances or misunderstandings during the year the state industrial commission will be called upon to exercise its good offices in the adjustment of same.

Previous to this settlement an agreement had been secured with the Call Clay Manufacturing company, which employes 250 workers. In addition to the provisions of the contract entered into with the six companies, the Call company agrees that none but union men shall be employed and arrangements have been made for a checking off of the dues of the members of the union through the medium of the company's offices.

The membership of the new union now totals 1,100, and the members are determined to extend its strength and influence, as they are enthusiastic over the happy ending of the strike.

TEAMSTERS ORGANIZE.

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 27.—Teamsters in this city have organized and have affiliated to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.